



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Buffalo District

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FUSRAP Progress on Former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation Site**

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District visited the former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation site in Lockport today to officially launch its plan to conduct further environmental investigation at the site.

“The Guterl Site (a.k.a. Simonds Saw),” said Ray Pilon, Project Manager, “is now included in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).” FUSRAP is a federal program designed to cleanup sites that became contaminated with low levels of residual radioactivity during the nation's early atomic energy program over 50 years ago.

The former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation performed rolling mill operations on uranium and thorium metals during the period from 1948 to 1956 under contracts with the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). In total, between 25 and 35 million pounds of uranium and

approximately 30 to 40 thousand pounds of thorium were rolled from 1948 until operations were discontinued in 1956, at which time the site was decontaminated to the standards in place at that time.

In 1999, the Corps completed a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the site, which included a review of radiological data that was part of a survey prepared for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Though the Corps has determined that there is no immediate health risk posed by AEC or Manhattan Engineer District (MED)-related contaminants at the site, the agency has determined that radiological contamination in excess of current federal and state standards exists at the site. This means that there is a high probability that remedial action would be needed before any future development of the property.

“Because there is potential for contaminants to pose future problems,” explained Pilon, “we are now working to design a sampling and analysis plan that will help us obtain additional data to determine how to minimize and control any future risks.” By conducting a Remedial Investigation, the Corps will better define the nature, quantity, and extent of contamination related to AEC/MED activities and to further evaluate the potential risk to human health and the environment.

As mandated by Congress, the Corps will follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process for site investigation, and if necessary, site remediation. This process outlines the steps that must be taken to reach a final decision for each site and requires open involvement between the Corps, regulators, stakeholders and the community. Under CERCLA, a Remedial Investigation follows a Preliminary Assessment.

The Corps' Preliminary Assessment of the Guterl site also indicated that there may be significant quantities of other contaminants unrelated to past federal government (MED and AEC ) activities at the site. Under FUSRAP, the Corps only has authority to clean up contamination related to past MED and AEC activities. Other contaminants that may exist/remain at the site after the FUSRAP clean up would be the responsibility of other state or federal environmental programs that exist for that purpose, such as Superfund.

The Corps encourages public participation in the decision-making process for its sites and will be conducting community assessment interviews to develop a community relations plan for the site. To participate in the survey, or be added to the site mailing list, interested citizens can contact the Buffalo District at (800) 833-6390. The Corps is also interested in interviewing anyone with information about early MED and/or AEC activities at the former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation site. Letters may be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Attention: FUSRAP Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207. E-mails may be addressed to [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil).